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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. D. A. Washington, D. C. June 17, 1953 SS 127

1953 Crop Prospects Better Than Average on June 1

Crop prospects were satisfactory to favorable in most of the country on June 1, with the dry Southwest the major exception. Good weather in late May enabled farmers to overcome much of the widespread delay in field work. The improved growing conditions helped to offset delays in crop development caused by the previous cool, rainy weather.

A near-failure of crops was in prospect in a southwestern area that included parts of Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico, because of continued drought. Adjoining this area and in scattered western and southern sections, prospects were only poor to fair. Elsewhere, they were mostly good, ranging up to excellent in Iowa and northernmost States across the country.

Planting Progress

Seeding of spring grains and flax was not yet completed in northerly areas on June 1. Corn and soybean plantings were being completed at about usual dates, but not as early as in 1952. In the South, planting of cotton, peanuts, sorghums and setting of tobacco had not made usual progress. Although these delays tended to limit crop prospects, favorable early June weather was enabling crops to catch up.

Moisture

Soil moisture was mostly adequate, except in the dry Southwest. Irrigation water supplies are adequate in the Northern portion, but not so good as a year ago, and taper down to extremely short in southern portions of the West.

1.1 Billion Bushel Wheat Crop—4% Above Average

The winter wheat crop is estimated at 770 million bushels, an increase of 40 million bushels over the May 1 estimate, and slightly below the average of 797 million bushels. A record spring wheat crop of 363 million bushels is forecast. This is fully a half larger than last year's harvest of 239 million bushels and considerably larger than the average of 291 million bushels. The total wheat crop of 1,132 million bushels would be an eighth smaller than the bumper 1952 crop but larger than the 1950 or 1951 crops, and 4 percent above average.

Prices Received and Prices Paid by Farmers Index Numbers, 1910-14 = 100

Item	May 1952	Apr. 1953	May 1953
Prices received by farmers	293	259	261
Crops	270	247	243
Food grains	245	244	242
Feed grains and hay	227	206	205
Tobacco	436	424	426
Cotton	303	266	268
Fruit	190	226	224
Truck crops	285	204	182
Oil-bearing crops	280	289	285
Livestock and products	313	270	277
Meat animals	394	299	317
Dairy products	281	264	257
Poultry and eggs	175	218	218
Prices paid by farmers:			
All commodities	276	264	264
Commodities used in living	271	269	270
Commodities used in			
production	281	257	257
All commodities, interest,			
taxes, and wage rates	289	279	279
Parity ratio (prices rec'd to			
prices paid by farmers).....	101	93	94

Rye Crop Improved During May

Yield prospects for rye improved during May and the estimated production is 17.1 million bushels, nearly 2 million bushels more than on May 1. The 10-year average production is 25.8 million bushels.

Corn Making Good Progress

Planting of the 1953 corn crop lagged during early May in the important corn producing States, due to excessive rainfall and cool weather. However, mostly favorable weather prevailing since May 20 enabled farmers to push corn planting, and corn is up to good stands. Cultivation of fields is now in progress. In some parts of Illinois and Indiana, insects have thinned stands.

Hay Prospects Above Average

Hay crop prospects on June 1 were above average in spite of some setbacks from insects, frosts, and drought in some areas during May. The reported condition of 87 percent is two points above a month ago and is also 2 points above average. This relatively high condition has been equalled only three times in the last 26 years.

Pasture Condition Below A Year Ago

Pastures were supplying good to excellent grazing in virtually all the north half of the country, but were only poor to fair in some South Atlantic coastal portions, in the droughty Southwest, and parts of the southern portion of the Western region. Condition is reported at 85 percent, 1 point below average and 3 points less than a year ago. Range pastures showed seasonal improvement, but for the western range area the condition remains lowest since 1937. Feeding continues in dry areas and some wheat was being grazed off in Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. Livestock have made less than usual seasonal gains.

Above-Average Early Commercial Potato Crop

Total 1953 production of early commercial potatoes is expected to be 31 percent larger than in 1952 and 11 percent above average. A large winter crop was produced and supplies of spring potatoes are plentiful. The summer crop, though larger than in 1952, is substantially smaller than average.

Parity Prices for Farm Products and Actual Prices Received

Commodity and Unit	Actual Price		Parity Price
	Apr. 15, 1953	May 15, 1953	May 15, 1953
Wheat, bu. dol.	2.08	2.06	2.43
Corn, bu. dol.	1.46	1.49	1.77
Peanuts, lb. ct.	11.1	11.2	13.2
Cotton, lb. 1/ ct.	31.45	31.73	34.10
Potatoes, bu. dol.	1.34	1.15	1.61
Hogs, 100 lb. dol.	20.70	23.10	20.30
Beef cattle, 100 lb. dol.	17.30	17.50	21.00
Calves, 100 lb. dol.	19.60	19.80	23.40
Lambs, 100 lb. dol.	20.80	22.40	22.90
Butterfat, lb. ct.	65.4	65.1	74.5
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. .. dol.	4.12	2/ 3.95	4.69
Chickens, live, lb. ct.	27.2	26.5	30.7
Eggs, doz. ct.	45.5	45.9	3/ 47.3

1/ American upland cotton.

2/ Preliminary.

3/ Transitional parity.

Commercial Vegetables

Commercial vegetables for processing were making slow progress, 1 to 3 weeks behind normal. A relatively large out-turn of spring commercial vegetables and melons for fresh market is still expected, although unfavorable weather in May lowered prospects some. The acreage of summer crops is also expected to be larger than last summer.

Fruit

Outlook for 1953 deciduous fruit crops is for about the same tonnage as in 1952. Winter freeze damage was generally light and spring frosts took about the usual toll. April and May freezes in Western States reduced the outlook in some sections materially, but the overall reduction is expected to be small.

Crop	Production		
	Average 1942-51	1952	Indicated June 1, 1953
Peaches1,000 bu.	1/ 67,012	1/ 62,560	63,033
Pears1,000 bu.	1/ 30,396	30,947	32,301
Cherries (12 States).....1,000 tons	1/ 198	1/ 218	248
Apricots (3 States).....1,000 tons	1/ 226	1/ 177	195

1/ Includes some quantities not harvested.

Commercial Apples

Outlook for apples in commercial counties for 1953 is for a crop above that of 1952 but below average. Compared with 1952, an increase is in prospect for the Central States and a slight decline for the Eastern and Western States.

1952 Sugar Production—Cane and Beet (Revised)

Production of sugar from the 1952 continental sugar beet and sugarcane crops totaled 2,112,000 tons, raw value, compared with 1,968,000 tons from the 1951 crop. The 1952 sugar production is made up of 1,508,000 tons from beets and 604,000 tons from cane. In 1951 production from sugar beets amounted to 1,549,000 tons and 419,000 tons from cane.

Milk Production in May 2% Above Average

Production of milk in May is estimated at 12,610 million pounds, 1 percent less than the record May output of 1945, and 2 percent above the 10-year average for the month. January-May production is 4 percent above average.

Heavy Feeding of Milk Cows

Milk cows in farm dairy herds were receiving liberal feedings of grains and concentrates on June 1. Concentrate ration costs have been declining since January and in May were substantially below a year ago. However, milk and cream prices have been declining also and in May were sharply below a year ago. The milk-feed price ratio for May was down about 3 percent from both May a year ago and the long-time average, while the butterfat-feed price ratio was down only 1 percent from a year ago but was 5 percent below the 20-year average for the month.

Fewer Layers and Eggs

Farm flocks laid 5,872 million eggs in May—1 percent less than in May 1952 and 4 percent less than the 1942-51 average. Egg production during May was at the rate of 18.4 eggs per layer compared with 18.3 last year and the average of 17.9 eggs.

The Nation's farm flock averaged 319,729,000 layers in May—1 percent less than in May last year and 7 percent below the average.

Chicks and young chickens of this year's hatching on farms June 1 are estimated at 469,286,000, the smallest number since 1937—3 percent less than a year ago and 17 percent below the average.

Farmers received 45.9 cents per dozen for eggs in mid-May compared with 34.2 cents last year. Prices of chickens averaged 26.5 cents per pound on May 15, compared with 24.4 cents a year ago and 27.2 cents on April 15.

Feeding Ratios Favorable

The mid-May cost of feed for the United States farm poultry ration was \$3.92 per 100 pounds, compared with \$4.23 a year ago. The May egg-feed, farm chicken-feed and turkey-feed price relationships were all more favorable than a year ago.

Seasonal Increase in Farm Workers

About 10-3/4 million people were working on farms in late May. This was about 3/4 million more than a month earlier and is about the usual seasonal change.

Nearly a hundred thousand more hired workers were employed in late May this year than a year ago, but a large decrease in family workers kept the total of all workers about a hundred thousand under a year ago.

Naval Stores

Production of gum and wood turpentine for the crop year ending March 31, 1953 was 564,670 barrels—17 percent less than during the previous year. Gum and wood rosin production during the 1952-53 crop year totaled 1,718,280 drums, or 16 percent below last year's production.

Citrus Prospects Promising

Citrus areas of Florida were hot and dry during May, but general rains on June 6 and 7 relieved drought conditions over the entire State.

In the Texas citrus area, water supplies are critically short and relief is not in sight because June, July, and August are normally months of very little rainfall.

California citrus crops bloomed over a longer period than usual and bloom was heavy in most orchards. Prospects are favorable at present.

January-May Cash Receipts down 3%

Farmers' cash receipts from marketings in the first 5 months of 1953 totaled 10.5 billion dollars, 3 percent less than in the corresponding period last year. A 5-percent increase in the total volume of marketings was more than offset by lower average prices. Total livestock receipts in the 5-month period were 6.8 billion dollars, down 7 percent from last year, but crop receipts of 3.7 billion were up 6 percent.

61.7 Million Persons Employed

Total civilian employment rose from 61.2 million in April to 61.7 million in May. Persons unemployed numbered 1.3 million in May compared with 1.6 million in April.

Current Indexes for Agriculture

Index Numbers	Base Period	May 1953
Prices received by farmers	1910-14=100	261
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes and wage rates.....	1910-14=100	279
Parity ratio	1910-14=100	94
Farm wage rates	1910-14=100	1/ 508
Wholesale prices of food	1947-49=100	1/ 103
Retail prices of food	1947-49=100	1/ 112
Weekly factory earnings.....	1947-49=100	2/ 152
Production Comparisons	Jan.-May 1952	Jan.-May 1953
Milk, (bil. lb.)	47.9	50.8
Eggs, (bil.)	29.5	29.0
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	3/ 2,214	3/ 2,867
Lamb & Mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	3/ 193	3/ 225
Pork & lard (mil. lb.).....	3/ 4,337	3/ 3,625
All meats (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	3/ 6,905	3/ 6,932

1/ April figures.

2/ March figure.

3/ January-April under Federal inspection.